

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The Final Office Action dated July 12, 2007, has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

Claims 2, 4, 5, 8, 9, 13, 15, 16, 19, 20, 25 and 26 are rejected by the Examiner. Claims 5 and 16 are hereby amended. Support for the amendments to claims 5 and 16 can be found at paragraph 0042 of the description. Claims 8, 9, 19 and 20 are hereby canceled. Accordingly, claims 2, 4, 5, 13, 15, 16, 25 and 26 remain pending in this application. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

Claims 2, 4, 5, 8, 9, 13, 15, 16, 19, 20, 25 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,266,116 to Ohta et al. (hereinafter "Ohta") in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,653,859 to Masaki (hereinafter "Masaki").

The rejection of claims 2, 4, 5, 8, 9, 13, 15, 16, 19, 20, 25 and 26 is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested. Claims 5 and 16 are allowable over the cited references in that each of these claims recites a combination of elements including, for example, "wherein the first and second alignment layers comprise polysiloxanecinnamate." None of the cited references including Ohta and Masaki, singly or in combination, teaches or suggests at least this feature of the claimed invention.

In Ohta and JP06-160878 cited by the Examiner, the alignment layer is formed of polyimide. In the Masaki, the alignment layer is formed of SiO₂, poly-imide, poly-p-xylylene. In Ohe, the alignment layer is formed of PIQ (polyimide Quinazolinedione). But, in the present invention, the alignment layer is formed of PSCN (polysiloxanecinnamate). Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 2, 4, 5, 13, 15, 16, 25 and 26 are allowable over the cited references.

Applicants believe the foregoing amendments place the application in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps


necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. *A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.*

Respectfully submitted,

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By



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